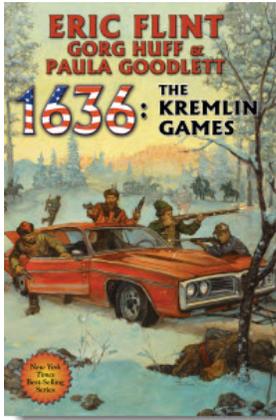


Baen Teacher's Guide to *1636: The Kremlin Games* by Eric Flint, Gorg Huff and Paula Goodlett



Contents:

- Recommended reading levels
- Biographical material and links
- Background of the book and plot summary
- Character sketches
- A separate guide to each of the six parts of the book, which includes a plot summary of each chapter and the following:
 - Prepare to read...
 - Vocabulary
 - Focus questions or initiating activity
 - Quiz / reading comprehension questions – multiple choice and short answer
 - Reflection and discussion questions – may be used to initiate classroom discussion, as short writing assignments, or as test questions
 - Suggested activities / inquiry-based exploration – suggestions for activities and projects

Recommended reading levels: Because of the mature nature of some of the material included in the book, included attempted rape, violence, and language, classroom use of this book is

probably most appropriate for upper-level high school students. The book would be particularly effective for upper-level classes in European History, World History, or Western Civilization.

Biographical information on Eric Flint:

Eric Flint was born in Southern California in 1947 and graduated from high school in Los Angeles. After high school, Flint completed a B. A. from UCLA in 1968 and pursued a Ph. D. in Southern African History but left after three years of study to working as a political activist. Over the next thirty years, Flint made a living working a variety of jobs including truck driver, meatpacker, glass blower, and machinist. In 1992 Flint decided to return to writing after many years. Since then, Flint has authored or co-authored dozens of successful pieces, particularly in the area of alternate history, fantasy, and science fiction.

Biographical resources for Eric Flint on the web:

- “Eric Flint,” Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Flint
- Eric Flint’s own site contains autobiographical information, *Eric Flint’s place on the web*, <http://www.ericflint.net/index.php/biography/>
- A short biography and bibliography of his works are at *Fantastic Fiction*, [http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/f/eric-flint /](http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/f/eric-flint/)

Gorg Huff is a Texan who has helped in researching the Ring of Fire series background, written numerous stories for the *Grantville Gazette*, and contributed both maps and drawings to *1634: The Bavarian Crisis*. Gorg began as a solo writer, but now principally teams with Paula Goodlett.

Paula Goodlett started reading the *1632* series after a knee injury. Once a member of the military, Paula now works with Eric Flint and contributed key ideas to *1634: The Ram Rebellion*. She also edits the *Grantville Gazettes* series and other e-books in the Ring of Fire series. She often writes with Gorg Huff. Together, they've written *The Birdie Tales* among other works. For more information about Paula Goodlett, please see http://ericflint.wikia.com/wiki/Paula_Goodlett.

Suggested class activity: Have your students read about Eric Flint and his coauthors from various sources, including Flint’s own site, before beginning the book. Based on what they learn, they can create predictions for what kind of ideas and themes may be present in *1636: The Kremlin Games* with a follow-up reflection after reading.

Background to the Ring of Fire series:

Flint first published *1632* in 2000 with Baen books. Considered within the genre alternate history, the novel begins when the space/time continuum becomes disrupted and the citizens of Grantville find themselves in Germany in the year 1632. Since then, a number of sequels and spin-offs exist as well as a fan site where members can contribute to the 1632 universe. The fan site is located at <http://1632.org> and the e-zine, *The Grantville Gazette*, can be found at <http://www.grantvillegazette.com/>. Students may enjoy exploring the sites to get a feel for the Ring of Fire universe and understand some of the terminology such as “up-timer” and main events.

Plot Summary:

Vladimir Gorchakov, a prince from Russia, arrives in Grantville with Boris Petrov, a bureaucrat, to determine whether or not the Ring of Fire happened or is a hoax. Once they discover that the Ring of Fire truly brought a town from the future into the region of Germany in their time period, Vladimir and Boris begin to see the opportunities to benefit Russia. The ties between Grantville and Russia strengthen throughout the book, including Vladimir’s wedding to a Grantville resident Brandy Bates and the relocation of some Grantville residents to Russia. The first Grantville resident to move to Russia, Bernie Zeppi, lives at a Dacha with Vladimir’s sister and Russia’s top minds to create a type of think tank that will produce the tools Russia needs to progress and flourish. Bernie’s presence changes Russia in many ways, and not all of them are expected. Bernie assists in the creation of updated weapons, road scrapers, and dirigibles, but he also helps lower the mortality rate during a typhoid epidemic and encourages Russians to rethink the practice of serfdom. Even the czar begins to reconsider serfdom and contemplates a constitutional monarchy. Not all of these changes are welcome, however, and some influential families attempt to take over the country. In the end, Bernie, Natasha, and others rescue the czar and head to the east of the country in hopes of starting a new kind of life for Russians, one that includes more equality.

Major Characters:

- Anya – Anya is a runaway slave who arrives at the Dacha. With Bernie’s help and open-mindedness, Anya learns accounting. She becomes the assistant to Princess Natalia and bookkeeper for the Dacha.
- Brandy Bates – Brandy is a barmaid who gets her GED and becomes a researcher at the National Library in Grantville. She marries Vladimir.

- Natalia (“Natasha”) Gorchakov – Natasha is a princess of the Gorchakov family and sister to Vladimir. She runs the Dacha think-tank near Moscow and helps pioneer new products for the good of Russia and her family.
- Vladimir Petrovich Gorchakov – Vladimir is a prince of Russia. He travels to Grantville to learn about the Ring of Fire and how Russia fares in the future. He stays in Grantville to oversee the copying of information and sending of books and other materials. He marries Brandy Bates.
- Andrei Korisov – Andrei is a gunsmith at the Dacha who eventually works in his own gun shop nearby. Andrei uses the up-timer technology to create the AK3 rifle and revolutionizes warfare in Russia.
- Boris Timofeyevich (“Tim”) – Tim is a junior officer in the Russian army who shows a skill in strategy in the war games. Tim eventually rises to the rank of general under the czar.
- Cass Lowry – Cass is an up-timer who is hired by the Russians to bring Bernie’s car to Russia. Cass stays and becomes an adviser on the military side of production. His bad manners and arrogant attitude make him unpopular.
- Ivan Maslov – Ivan is the son of a butcher who shows such skill in the war games that he gains prominence in the military.
- Boris Ivanovich Petrov – Boris is a bureaucrat from Moscow who travels to Grantville with Vladimir. Boris sets up a communication network and heads the Grantville desk in Moscow after his travels.
- Evdokia Romanov – Evdokia is the czarina of Russia. She has great influence over her husband and befriends both Natasha and Brandy Bates.
- Feodor (“Filaret”) Romanov – Filaret is the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church and father of the czar. He is considered a powerful figure, and some say he is the real ruler.
- Mikhail Fedorovich Romanov – Mikhail is the czar of Russia. Known for being indecisive, Mikhail considers reforms but does not always act on his ideas.
- Fedor Ivanovich Sheremetev – Fedor is a Russian boyar and cousin to the czar. He is from a powerful family and uses his influence as Chief of the Bureau of Records to wield great power in Russia. Eventually, he becomes the Director General of Russia.
- Nikita (“Nick”) Slavenitsky – Nick is the main pilot of the dirigible.

- Filip Pavlovich Tupikov – Filip is a philosopher and advocates freedom of serfs under the pen name “The Flying Squirrel.” He works at the Dacha and falls in love with Anya.
- Bernard (“Bernie”) Zeppi – Bernie is an up-timer hired by Vladimir to travel to Russia and share his knowledge with Vladimir’s family. Over time, Bernie consults on projects that make life better in Russia, including reducing the mortality rate during a breakout of typhoid fever.

Guide to Part 1 - chapters 1-5

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Posol’sky Prikaz
 - Cossacks
 - Perestroika
 - Library of Alexandria
 - Thuringia
 - Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church
 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Research the ideas of multiple/alternate universes. Discuss various scientific opinions about the possibility, and how it affects the historical figures presented in the story. (ch. 1)
 - Perform a thought experiment: if you could travel to a library that held the details of your future and the future of your family and country, would you want to go? What information would you want? Would you try to change anything, or would you accept what the books represented as your life? (ch. 1)
 - Find out more about Eric Flint, the author, at <http://www.ericflint.net/> or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Flint and predict what elements or themes might be present in this novel. As the novel progresses, you can keep track of these predictions and write a reflection at the end.

- Research the Ring of Fire and the events that landed Grantville in the 1600s at <http://1632.org/> or read the first book in the series, *1632*, as an e-book at <http://www.baen.com/library/0671319728/0671319728.htm> and determine why such an event would be unsettling to the Europeans of the 1600s. Why would some consider it a hoax? (ch. 1)
- Learn more about the Romanov family, particularly Fyodor Nikitich Romanov (“Filaret”), the current patriarch at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarch_Filaret_\(Feodor_Romanov\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarch_Filaret_(Feodor_Romanov)) , and his son Mikhail, the current czar at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_I_of_Russia. What roles do they play in governing the country? (ch. 1-5)
- Grantville lands in the Thuringia area of Germany during the Thirty Year’s War. Look at the map here: http://emersonkent.com/map_archive/thirty_years_war_1630.htm and determine who the powerful forces are that Russia should be concerned about and why. (ch. 1)

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter 1 – Prince Vladimir and Boris arrive in Grantville in 1631. They are sent by their government in Russia to determine whether or not Grantville is a “hoax.” The pair find that Grantville and the “up-timers” who live there are not hoaxes at all, but, in fact, from the future.
- Chapter 2 – Boris heads to the library to learn more about the future of Russia from the history books in Grantville. He returns to Vladimir with bleak news. Both agree that more time is needed to explore the place and learn about Russia’s future. Vladimir wants to send word home to the patriarch of Russia with proof about Grantville in hopes that they can stay longer.
- Chapter 3 – Vladimir enters a beer hall and meets Bernie, an up-timer who does not like his current life since the Ring of Fire deposited him back in the past. Bernie agrees to spy for the Russians, and Vladimir wants Bernie to return to Russia.
- Chapter 4 – Vladimir and Boris offer Bernie the chance to go to Russia and live in grand style. Bernie feels the opportunity is a good one and agrees to go.
- Chapter 5 – Boris and Bernie begin the journey to Russia. The trek is not as comfortable as Bernie had hoped. Vladimir stays behind to continue gathering information.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. Why would Grantville need to be watched by spies? (ch.1)
2. Why does Vladimir feel he is better equipped to stay and do research in Grantville than Boris? (ch.2)
 - a. Vladimir is a prince and can order people around.
 - b. Vladimir is fluent in more languages and has more money to spend freely.
 - c. Vladimir secretly does not want to go home because he does not like the czar.
 - d. Vladimir believes he is a better spy as a royal.
3. Bernie is unhappy in Grantville, in part, because of the death of which relative? (ch. 3)
 - a. Father
 - b. Sister
 - c. Mother
 - d. Aunt
4. Why does Bernie suffer from what he believes to be PTSD? (ch.3)
 - a. Bernie fought in the Crapper battle
 - b. Bernie was injured playing football
 - c. Bernie was injured during the Ring of Fire
 - d. Bernie was in a mining accident
5. When traveling back to Russia, why does Boris want to keep Bernie's presence a secret to the Swedes? (ch. 5)
6. What is an up-timer? (ch.3)

Answers:

1. Many countries were suspicious of Grantville and wanted to learn from their futuristic technology.
2. B
3. C

4. A
5. Boris does not want the Swedes to keep him from bringing an up-timer out of Grantville.
6. An up-timer is a person who traveled through the Ring of Fire and lived in the future.

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. An atmosphere of distrust begins early in the novel, starting in ch. 1 when Vladimir goes to Grantville to be a spy. Many Grantville residents realize spies abound in their community, but they are not very concerned. What does the importance of spying placed on this novel show us about the atmosphere in Europe during the 17th century? What other actions in the book confirm this?
2. Boris wants to read what the history books in the Grantville library say about Russia because he wants to know whether or not crucial decisions at hand in Russia will turn out positively in later years. What philosophical questions does this pose? What information can the history books in Grantville *not* show Boris now that the Ring of Fire has happened?
3. Bernie's presence demonstrates that the Ring of Fire affected all in Grantville differently. What are some examples of Grantville residents that Bernie mentions who created opportunities for themselves after the event? What keeps Bernie from being more productive?
4. Why does Vladimir want Bernie to go to Russia when it is clear that Bernie does not have the reputation in Grantville of being a leader or great thinker? Do you believe Bernie fully understands why he is being sent there?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. Read about the Romanov family at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Romanov and identify possible areas in the timeline that Boris and Vladimir might wish to change. Create a Top Ten list and justify your choices.
2. Examine how Grantville's presence in Germany has already altered history. Explore the sites dedicated to the series, such as <http://1632.org/>. Choose one area in history that you find interesting, such as the Thirty Years War, and investigate it more thoroughly. An interactive mapping of compare / contrast work for a presentation can be found at <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/compare-contrast-30066.html>

3. Investigate PTSD at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001923/> or another reputable site. Evaluate Bernie's symptoms against the symptoms of PTSD. Using a Venn diagram (an interactive one is at <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/venn/>) compare Bernie's accounts with a current report of PTSD. How do they differ?

Guide to Part 2 - chapters 6-28

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Deti boyar
 - Boyar дума
 - Dacha
 - Think Tank
 - Time of Troubles
 - Boris and Natasha from the *Bullwinkle* show
 - Streltzi
 - Typhoid fever
 - Red Square
 - Fresno Scrapers
 - Cholera
 - Bra burning
 - Madelyn O'Hare
 - Remington 7400
 - AK rifles
 - Gimbal
 - Dirigible

- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Read about Napoleon’s experience when invading Russia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_invasion_of_Russia and discuss what factors contributed to the outcome. (ch. 7-9)
 - Read about Hitler’s experience when trying to invade Russia at http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/hitler_russia_invasion_01.shtml and discuss what factors contributed to the outcome. (ch. 7-9)
 - Research the Little Ice Age at http://www.eh-resources.org/timeline/timeline_lia.html and discuss how this plays out in the story. (ch.
 - Explore the Butterfly Effect at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly_effect and discuss some of the repercussions involved in making decisions that could change what is “supposed” to happen.
 - Investigate the healing methods in the 17th century, particularly the belief in humors and bleeding at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval_medicine . How do these approaches work? Are any of these techniques considered valid today? Discuss how increasing knowledge about the body changes approaches to healing over time. (ch. 17)
 - Learn about the women’s liberation movement in America at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_liberation_movement . How did the lives of women change since then? Discuss how this could be a revolutionary concept to the women of the 1600s. (ch. 11-13)

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter 6 – Boris and Bernie reach Russia and arrive at Boris’s home. Boris’s wife tells the pair that the town has differing opinions about Grantville and Bernie. Both are to see the czar and patriarch.
- Chapter 7 – Boris meets with the patriarch and explains Vladimir’s plans for a Russian think tank. The patriarch has concerns and remains somewhat skeptical, but he seems open to the idea.
- Chapter 8 – Bernie meets Princess Natalia (“Natasha”), sister to Vladimir, and gives her a letter from her brother. Natasha appears impressed with the up-timer and believes the plan for a think tank is a good one.

- Chapter 9 – Bernie meets many Russian dignitaries including the czar. Overall, Bernie finds meeting most of the officials tedious. Unknown to Bernie, many of the officials are not impressed and tell Boris that Bernie was not a good choice.
- Chapter 10 – Natasha and Bernie travel to the Dacha, which will be the location for the think tank. Bernie shares some doubts about organized religion, which shocks Natasha.
- Chapter 11 – Natasha wants Bernie to talk to her about women’s liberation in up-time. This makes Bernie uncomfortable, so he suggests that Natasha write to a Grantville friend Brandy, a barmaid. Natasha sends a letter to Brandy and others.
- Chapter 12 – Natasha checks on the status of members of the think tank, but the news is not good. Larger developments, like the steam engine, are not going to be made quickly because of a lack of resources. Things will have to move more slowly.
- Chapter 13 – Boris arrives in Grantville to check on the communication network and Vladimir’s progress. Brandy receives Natasha’s letter and sends to her material describing the roles of up-timer women.
- Chapter 14 – The patriarch and others consider various proposals to create centralized banking and issue paper money to bolster the economy. Many noble families hope to be richer in the endeavor. Some are concerned about slaves / serfs getting ideas about rebellion from the up-timers.
- Chapter 15 – Experimentation continues in the Dacha with some progress. Anatoly builds a rifle but the peasant forced to try it sustains injuries from the backfire. Vitaly learns about health-care in up-time. Lazar works on creating batteries.
- Chapter 16 – Now that the weather begins to be warmer, the Dacha wants to try the road scraper. With some trial and error, the scraper proves to be a success. Soon, Yuri arrives to see how the scraper will improve road building. Many want scrapers, but how to pay for them remains an issue. In the region owned by Natasha’s family, scrapers provide much assistance in terms of road quality and time saved.
- Chapter 17 – A typhoid fever epidemic begins in the city, and Bernie steps in with what little knowledge he has to help lower the mortality rate. Through this experience, Bernie realizes that the work he does saves lives, and he becomes more serious and dedicated to his work.
- Chapter 18 – Natasha reviews progress at the Dacha. The new AK1 rifle works well, but many servants were injured in the process of trial and error. The steam engine and electricity-based work progresses slowly.

- Chapter 19 – Boris needs more men to run the Grantville desk in Moscow, but the lack of progress from the Dacha causes reluctance. Natasha tells Bernie that she wants Andrei out of the Dacha, and the gun shop (with Andrei) is moved about twenty miles away.
- Chapter 20 – Bernie introduces the idea of wargames to the Dacha and military. Through role playing, younger officers learn how to make command decisions. One young man, Ivan Milosevic, plays very well, which surprises some because he is the son of a mere baker.
- Chapter 21 – Bernie struggles to explain to the Russians how Grantville objects, like toilets. Frustration abounds on both side, as the Russians cannot get specific answers to their questions. Natasha and Bernie receive letters and books from Grantville.
- Chapter 22 – Andrei continues to improve the gun. He is making strides, learning that a gimbal may not be necessary for the gun to fire.
- Chapter 23 – Vladimir goes to one of the Grantville banks for a line of credit. While there, he meets with Don Francisco Nasi, and they agree to exchange information regularly via computer.
- Chapter 24 – Brandy receives letters and packages from Bernie, Natasha, and the czarina, all requesting aid in different matters. Bernie and Natasha also send letters to other Grantville residents in hopes of learning more ways to combat typhoid fever.
- Chapter 25 – Filaret, the patriarch, questions what the best political move is regarding the confirmation of Grantville. In the end, he decides to offer free information about the turning plough as a gesture of charity to all.
- Chapter 26 – The Dacha wants to build a machine that flies and settled on a half dirigible. Natasha shares progress at the Dacha with the czarina, including Bernie’s newfound dedication to his work since the fever outbreak. Bernie begins to study more in his free time so that he can help the Russians in their work more effectively.
- Chapter 27 – Andrei’s latest gun still has complications. Bernie and others try to assist him in troubleshooting the problems.
- Chapter 28 – The patriarch creates an “official” statement about the Ring of Fire, saying that God chose Germany as the site for Grantville to show the Germans are fighting the wrong battles when feuding over denominations. The Dacha begins to tinker with hot air balloons and achieves some success.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. What are the varying opinions in Russia regarding the Ring of Fire? (ch.6)
2. Why are some in Russia concerned that the tools are “magic” in Grantville? (ch.6)
3. Bernie begins to laugh when Boris introduces him to Natasha. Why? (ch. 8)
 - a. Natasha looks like a clown with her white makeup.
 - b. Natasha and Boris remind him of a cartoon he watched when younger.
 - c. Natasha and Boris remind him of a couple he knew in Grantville.
 - d. Natasha slipped and fell in a humorous way when she entered.
4. Why are some of the Russians not impressed with Bernie? (ch.9)
 - a. They feel he is beneath them as a peasant
 - b. They feel that he is rude
 - c. They feel that he is not very smart
 - d. They feel that he is too demanding
5. Why is Natasha “shocked and intrigued” by Bernie’s lack of concern about social class? (ch. 10)
6. Why does Bernie suggest Natasha write to a barmaid? (ch. 11)
7. Why do the Russians struggle to produce better guns at a faster rate? (ch. 12)
8. Why does Ivan tell the patriarch that Russia is rich in goods but not in money? (ch. 14)
9. What is one technique Vitaly learns from Bernie is important in healing? (ch. 15)
 - a. Bleeding the patient
 - b. Aspirin production
 - c. Pulse reading
 - d. Sterilizing wounds and needles
10. What is the benefit of a scraper? (ch. 16)
11. What concoction does Bernie try to replicate to help patients with fever? (ch. 17)
 - a. Penicillin

- b. Gatorade
 - c. Tylenol
 - d. Vitamins
12. How does the boy's typhoid sickness affect Bernie? (ch. 17)
13. Why does Natasha want Andrei out of the Dacha? (ch. 18)
14. How do the Russians change the war games and why? (ch. 20)
15. Why do the Russians not understand how Bernie uses the term "gravity"? (ch. 21)
- a. Bernie mispronounces the word
 - b. Bernie uses the word in a scientific way
 - c. There is no equivalent term
 - d. Bernie is not interested in the discussion and tries not to talk about it
16. What is "industrial espionage"? (ch. 23)
17. How do the letters from Russia inspire Brandy to get her GED? (ch. 24)
18. Why does the Ring of Fire cause Filaret to question his faith? (ch. 25)
19. Why was it a mistake for Andrei to send an early version of his gun to Fedor Ivanovich Sheremetev first?
- a. The czar found out and punished Andrei
 - b. Natasha found out and punished Andrei
 - c. The guns still had problems and angered people on all sides
 - d. The guns worked well and forced Andrei to explain a large order
20. Why does Bernie feel Grantville was placed in Germany and not Russia?

Answers:

1. Some believe the Ring is a hoax. Others believe it was a sign from God that Germany is favored over Russia.
2. During this time period, many were superstitious. Because they did not understand the technology behind what seemed to be fantastical objects, some worried that the objects were magic, which would mean they would not be allowed to be used by the Church.

3. B
4. C
5. Natasha grew up in a rigid class system, and she does not know another way of life. Between her time with Bernie and her correspondence with Brandy, Natasha believes another way is possible, and this is exciting to her.
6. Bernie considers Brandy one of the few real friends he has in Grantville. Plus, Bernie thinks it is funny that a princess is writing a barmaid for advice.
7. The Russians do not have a factory-style system in place for mass production.
8. Ivan believes that the lack of easily movable money makes trade more difficult on a larger scale.
9. D
10. The scraper makes the roads more even. It also creates roads in a faster amount of time.
11. B
12. Bernie realizes that his work really matters, and he decides to take things more seriously.
13. Natasha does not like how he treats the servants as expendable, and she does not like his temper and overall attitude.
14. The Russians put each side in a different room so that they cannot know how the other side will react, making things more realistic. They also bring in officers to judge the candidates.
15. B
16. Industrial espionage is spying and gathering information about industrial processes and trade secrets.
17. Brandy receives requests for information, and this shows her that she has a lot to offer and can make a difference.
18. Filaret does not understand how such a gift could be given to the Germans.
19. C
20. Bernie fears that Russia would have killed many in Grantville before realizing there was no magic happening in the city because of their rigid belief system and class system.

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. Even though the patriarch meets Bernie, living proof of the Ring of Fire, he struggles with how to explain it to himself and his people. Why does the patriarch feel that God has deserted him by sending the Ring of Fire to Germany?
2. Boris refers to the citizens of Grantville as peasants, revealing a thematic topic present throughout the book: social class. Why does Boris consider them peasants? How does categorizing them as peasants help Boris fit the Grantville citizens into Russian hierarchies?
3. Boris believes that the Grantville position is worth the risk. What is Boris risking? Why does he believe this risk will pay off in the end?
4. With a patriarch and a czar in Russia, deciding who is in charge can be difficult. Create a web or flowchart representing your understanding of the governing structures in Russia. Explain some of the complications and predict future problems.
5. Natasha compares Bernie's random comments to a chicken laying an egg (ch. 8). Explain her analogy. Do you agree with her? Why / why not? Try to come up with your own analogy that represents the frustrations Bernie feels trying to explain "up-timer" technology to the Russians.
6. Compare and contrast Sofia and Natasha's attitudes in Chapter 10. What does this say about each woman as a character? How much does age play a part in their points of view?
7. Bernie and Brandy agree that discussing women's liberation issues should be done by a woman. Do you agree? What issues about women's liberation may make discussing this topic with a man uncomfortable? Do you think that the items that Brandy sends Natasha reflect the true spirit of the women's liberation movement? Why or why not?
8. How does a scraper work? What are some of the benefits of the scraper besides making roads more quickly? Why does the scraper make Bernie feel conflicted in Chapter 16?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. Research the ideas of religious freedom and tolerance. What was the state of those ideas in Russia in 1632? How does that compare to the United States in the late twentieth century? Brainstorm some ideas about what it means to have religious freedom in either place at <https://bubbl.us/> and turn this into a paper or presentation.
2. Investigate the role of a centralized bank at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_bank and in America in particular at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_central_banking_in_the_United_States and then decide for yourself if a centralized bank is a good idea in the Russia of this novel. Argue

for or against it, first by outlining your ideas at http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion_map/

3. Bernie implements war games as a way to use games to work out scenario and strategy. Investigate the merit of games and play at <http://motivationalmagic.wordpress.com/2009/09/03/the-educational-value-of-strategy-games/> and <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI3004.pdf> and find a current example of how game playing turned into real-world advantage. Are there more benefits to playing games than some realize?
4. Vladimir enters into an agreement to conduct “industrial espionage” in a seemingly nonchalant manner, but many governments take this crime seriously. Read about some cases at <http://www.wright.edu/rsp/Security/Spystory/Industry.htm> and create a Top Ten list of secrets that should be protected and why.

Guide to Part 3 - chapters 29-44

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Zemskiy sobor
 - Banya
 - 30-06
 - flintlock
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Who was Ivan the Terrible? Why do people in Russia fear that things could go back to the way they were in his time as ruler. Investigate Ivan at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivan_the_Terrible and compare some of Ivan’s practices to what is happening in the 1600s.
 - Research the kinds of guns Russians had available in the 1600s. How do they compare to the ones that Andrei works on at the Gun Shop? By comparing these, discuss what an advantage it would be to have better firepower.

- Research Peter the Great at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_I_of_Russia and place him in the timeline of Russian history. Why would his name be important at this time in the story?
- Discover the history of the AK rifle at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AK-47> and determine their importance to Russian history. Discuss whether or not you think Flint and his coauthors may have named the character Andrei after the AK rifle.
- Research how serfdom works at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serfdom> and predict why Bernie may have problems with this institution of Russian culture. Compare this part of Russia's history to periods of American history.

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter 29 – Andrei's new gun (AK 3) works well, and the Dacha discusses production alternatives. Lazar continues to work on various electrical endeavors.
- Chapter 30 – The czar, czarina, and other dignitaries come to the Dacha to look at the hot air balloon and hear of the developments. All are impressed, and some look for ways to gain political leverage. The czar ponders a constitutional monarchy.
- Chapter 31 – Vladimir hires Brandy as a researcher, and they begin seeing more and more of each other. Vladimir teaches her more about the class system in Russia.
- Chapter 32 – Bernie returns to Moscow during typhoid season and finds that some of his improvements have greatly lowered the death rate. Bernie is discouraged that he could not do more. Guba, one of the Moscow healers, wants to learn more about up-time medicine.
- Chapter 33 – Vladimir gets more requests from Russia including impossible demands from the patriarch. The patriarch wants Vladimir to limit the access of information in Grantville, keeping some of the technological information away from other countries. Bernie writes for Brandy to send his car.
- Chapter 34 – Vladimir searches for options for sending Bernie's car. He and Brandy talk about Russian history.
- Chapter 35 – Filip finds Bernie teaching the maid Anya accounting, and all begin to rethink the social attitudes toward serfdom. Natasha makes Anya her personal maid. Lazar continues to work on the infrastructure needed to build more radios faster.

- Chapter 36 – A piece of writing by “The Flying Squirrel” urges Russians to consider voting for officials and to rethink serfdom. Fedor Sheremetev blames the Dacha, but the patriarch is not sure. Natasha reads a letter from Brandy and wishes she had more choices as a woman. Sofia, Natasha’s aunt, notices that Natasha appears to have feelings for Bernie.
- Chapter 37 – The Dacha produces a steam barge that runs from the Dacha to the Murom area, which is land owned by Natasha’s family. Many people flock to the area in hopes of a better life.
- Chapter 38 – Vladimir writes home to get permission to marry Brandy. He also begins to notice that there are political underpinnings behind some of his requests. Finally, he sends to Russia a report detailing high versus low pressure steam engines.
- Chapter 39 – Bernie remains anxious about his car, only to find out that another up-timer, Cass Lowry, will accompany the car to Russia and stay for a while. Bernie does not think highly of Cass, and he fears that Cass will make a poor impression. Vladimir agrees with this assessment.
- Chapter 40 – Bernie, Natasha, and others travel to the border to get his car, but the ship is not there. Natasha finds activities to distract Bernie while they wait.
- Chapter 41 – Cass arrives with the car and a large supply of gasoline and oil. The car contains books and letters for all. Cass shows little respect for hospitality and offends almost everyone present.
- Chapter 42 – The caravan, including the car, heads back to the Dacha but gets attacked on the way by hired bandits. Bernie and Cass join in the firefight, which impresses the guards.
- Chapter 43 – Cass finally crosses the line with his rude behavior. Vladislav, the head of Natasha’s security, teaches him a lesson by beating him.
- Chapter 44 – At Natasha’s recommendation, Cass goes to the bureau handling the military as an advisor. She wants him as far away from her as possible. The general is happy to receive Cass and plans to get the information he wants from Cass in any way possible.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. In what ways does Bernie try to make change by being an example? (ch. 29)
2. Why do some begrudge the progress at the Dacha? (ch. 30)
3. What did Guba learn from the up-timers that upset him? (ch. 32)
4. Why is the patriarch worried about information from Grantville reaching other nations? (ch. 33)
5. What is the history between the ruling family and Poland? (ch. 34)
 - a. Poland captured the patriarch and declared war.
 - b. Poland killed the oldest son of the patriarch in a war.
 - c. Poland captured trade routes and stole Russian resources
 - d. Poland killed a Russian delegation after a sporting match.
6. How does Filip change after talking to Anya and Bernie? (ch. 35)
7. Why would Natasha's involvement with Bernie be considered a disaster to some? (ch. 36)
8. Why were Ivan and Pavel chosen to run the barge? (ch. 37)
9. If even Vladimir believes that Cass could be a problem, why does Vladimir think Cass should stay a while in Russia? (ch. 39)
 - a. Cass has military experience
 - b. Cass has engineer experience
 - c. Cass also has up-timer knowledge that could be valuable
 - d. Cass can keep Bernie in line when Bernie prefers to goof off
10. Why can't Bernie leave Russia? (ch. 40)
11. How is Cass competition for Bernie? (ch. 41)
 - a. Cass is better looking
 - b. Cass is smarter
 - c. Cass is better with a gun

d. Cass is better with diplomacy

12. Why would a court family arrange the attack on the way back to the Dacha? (ch. 42)

13. Why would the streltzi want their own up-timer?

Answers:

1. Bernie tries to treat others at the Dacha, especially servants, in a better way.
2. Everything in Russia is political, and some feel that Natasha's family is gaining too much politically by funding the Dacha.
3. Guba learned that some of the treatments he used on the previous ruler may have made him insane and monstrous instead of better.
4. Because Russia is already behind in some ways, the patriarch is concerned that Russia will be outmatched in Europe militarily and in trade.
5. A
6. Filip begins to see serfs as people, not just positions.
7. Bernie is not considered upper class. Also, Bernie holds ideas that threaten the social stability of Russia.
8. They were experts on the river.
9. C
10. The czar does not want to lose an up-timer.
11. B
12. Some court families are jealous of Natasha's political standing.
13. They don't want to share time with the Dacha, and they don't want Bernie lecturing them on how to treat servants.

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. How are the Germans and the Russians different in terms of religion and technology when the Ring of Fire happens? How does this apply to the idea that the Russians need hope?

2. After Vladimir explains more of the class system to Brandy, see if you can create a web or diagram demonstrating your knowledge of social class in Russia. Where do things become complicated? Where are the problems?
3. Bernie seems easy-going with all around him. Why do some consider him a threat? Do you think Bernie is aware of this perception? Find examples in the text to support your answer.
4. While waiting for his car, Bernie realizes that he cannot leave Russia even if he wants to. Up until now, Bernie believes that he is more of a guest than a prisoner. Why does Bernie not confront the issue with Natasha? How does this change his interactions at the Dacha or with any of the Russians?
5. What are some of the reasons why the military might want their own up-timer? How does this give them autonomy from the Dacha?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. Throughout the story people refer to the Time of Troubles. What happened during the Time of Troubles? Discover more about this period at <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/606795/Time-of-Troubles> and determine what is happening in current times to make Russians fear that the Time of Troubles would return.
2. Some Russians hint that they are willing to torture Bernie and Cass for up-timer knowledge not given willingly. This does not become an issue, especially with Bernie who sincerely wants to help. Does torture work? This debate has not been completely settled. Read one examination of this issue at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/13/AR2007121301303.html> and consider for yourself. Investigate more about a current debate and connect it to the reading for further benefit.
3. The steam barge revolutionizes transportation possibilities in Russia. Why is Russia so dependent on rivers? Take a look at a map of Russia at <http://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/russia/haxrussia.html> and plot out the main areas in the book. Then, look at the steam barge history at <http://www.sailingbargeassociation.co.uk/history.html> and explain the importance of the barge to the Russian economy.

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Bandolier
 - Drop forge
 - Breechblock
 - Winchester rifle
 - Golay golrod
 - Volley gun
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Research the history of photography at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_photography and discuss why some would find the idea of reproducing an image dangerous.
 - Read the United States Constitution at <http://archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html> and determine how the creation of a document could be considered anxiety-producing for the people of the land. What would a Russian Constitution from the 1600s need to include to meet the concerns of all?
 - Discover how dirigibles were used in war at http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Lighter_than_air/dirigibles/LTA9.htm and be ready to compare the actual war use to how the Russians use the dirigible in the story.

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter 45 – Cass and Andrei try to work on a drop forge to help mass-produce guns. After that, they discuss the possibility of building an up-time cannon. Cass does not have the problems with slavery that Bernie does.
- Chapter 46 – After conditional approval from the czar, Vladimir proposes to Brandy. While she does not look forward to converting or being inspected by a company of noble women, she accepts.
- Chapter 47 – Cass and Andrei start to skim some of the guns in production to sell on the black market. Cass continues to suggest improvements on the design as well.

- Chapter 48 – The Russian party arrives in Grantville, including the women sent to evaluate whether or not Brand is a suitable wife for Vladimir. Of all of them, Madame Sheremetev threatens to undo the union the most, largely for political reasons. To help with this, Brandy gives Madame Sheremetev information behind photography, unaware it could harm the success of the Dacha.
- Chapter 49 – More pamphlets spread throughout Russia voicing concerns about whether a constitution would be a good idea or further divide the rich and poor. The rifles arrive for the military.
- Chapter 50 – The recent winner of the war games, Tim Lebedev, gets sent to an actual military division after Poland armies invade Rzhev. Tim becomes frustrated with the interference from political posturing. The dirigible will fly in front and scout.
- Chapter 51 – The leader of the Polish army reveals that he invaded Rzhev based on information that the Russians were preparing to strike from that location. Once he got there, he realized the information was wrong, but he feels forced to continue what he started.
- Chapter 52 – The army and scouts are unimpressed with the limitations of the dirigible in action. Both the dirigible and scouts are not finding much in terms of Polish troop advancement.
- Chapter 53 – The dirigible brings back solid intelligence and the Russians can now see how many soldiers are waiting at Rzhev. After some discussion, General Izmailov agrees to send cavalry ahead to fight, but he does not fully support the idea. He also orders Tim to watch the battle from the dirigible.
- Chapter 54 – The cavalry forces fail, and Tim reports to the General. The General decides to head forward with the infantry but sends Tim to the river to watch for supply boats and barges.
- Chapter 55 – The most experienced steam barge engineers are sent up the Volga to bring supplies and more troops to the Rzhev area. Unfortunately, the engineers are not familiar with the new engine or the river. When a passenger gets annoyed by the steam whistle, he breaks it off, which eventually destroys the boat and all on it.
- Chapter 56 – Brandy and Vladimir marry in a lavish style. Russian residents in Grantville discuss politics but do not know of the Polish attack.
- Chapter 57 – Tim devises a way to attack using the wooden wall structures normally used for defense, and the general likes the idea. In Moscow, many officials are not pleased with the general's cavalry strike.

- Chapter 58 – Poland sends reinforcement, causing the Russians to attack on one side and defend on another. The Poles are disconcerted about the new technology, especially the dirigible.
- Chapter 59 – The Poles try to advance, but new Russian firepower surprises them, kills many, and forces a retreat. The dirigible malfunctions and heads for one of the Polish units. The Poles fire at it, but they do not stop its descent. It lands between the two camps.
- Chapter 60 – The Russians win the battle for Rzhev thanks to innovative thinking on the part of Tim and others. Peasants join in the fight with the limited weapons they have, mainly axes. Tim orders troops in the general's name without permission.
- Chapter 61 – As a result of Tim's actions, he receives a promotion because the action succeeded. Also as a result, Tim must work in horrible assignments such as latrine duty without complaint.
- Chapter 62 – The Russians return from the Grantville wedding with news about foreign nations and technological progress. In Russia, the problem of what to do with serfs continues, and the czar seriously considers reform.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. How do Cass and Andrei justify selling guns on the side? (ch. 47)
2. How did the gift of photography to the Sheremetev family undermine the Dacha? (ch. 48)
3. Why do many countries rank the up-timers as nobility despite their common origins? (ch. 48)
4. Why send the dirigible to the battle? (ch. 50)
5. What delays the troops in their travel to Rzhev?
 - a. Tim was late in arriving
 - b. Politics about order of placement
 - c. Lack of supplies from the barge
 - d. The troops left on time
6. How did the Polish receive poor information about Rzhev? (ch. 51)
7. Why did the general send the cavalry if he did not feel it was the best decision? (ch. 53)

- a. Tim felt it was a good idea
 - b. He did not have enough supplies to last much longer
 - c. The leader of the cavalry had political ties
 - d. The general did not believe cavalry to be effective
8. Why did the general send Tim to the river? (ch. 54)
- a. He needed to keep Tim safe
 - b. Tim could see the action better from the river
 - c. He did not trust Tim
 - d. Tim had given poor advice
9. Why do some in Russia believe there are merits to serfdom? (ch. 56)
10. How will the dirigible communicate with camp now that the site has moved? (ch. 58)
- a. By color coded flags
 - b. By flashing lights
 - c. By throwing papers onto the field
 - d. By raising and lowering its height
11. How will the loss of the dirigible affect the Russian ability to strategize? (ch. 59)
12. Why does the general take credit for Tim's idea? (ch. 61)
13. How do the serfs usually voice displeasure in their lot? (ch. 62)
- a. They incite riots on the farmland
 - b. They sabotage their work spaces
 - c. They run away
 - d. They commit crimes in hopes of being imprisoned

Answers:

1. They believe that because corruption is common in Russia, they should profit as well.

2. Because the family has some up-timer technology, they can claim they have other pieces as well without having to pay the Dacha.
3. The knowledge and technology makes them valuable.
4. The dirigible can fly farther and faster, so it can report on the movements of the enemy.
5. B
6. The most likely reason is that Russian corruption led people to believe more was happening in Rzhev than actually could be the case.
7. C
8. A
9. Some believe that the land could not be worked if all had to be paid for their labor.
10. B
11. They will have to rely on slower information that may not be as accurate.
12. He suffered a loss in reputation because of the cavalry incident and needed something good attached to his name.
13. C

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. Throughout this section there are references to corruption in the Russian establishment. What are some examples of corruption? How does such obvious corruption interfere with government and the perception of the officials?
2. Vladimir told Brandy that he had to ask permission to marry even though he is a prince in his own right. Why does Vladimir have to ask permission, and what were the consequences if he did not? If Vladimir has to ask permission to marry, is he truly free?
3. In the United States, the Constitution guaranteed freedoms for all. Why are some in Russia afraid that a Constitution would only favor the wealthy?
4. Politics affects all decisions in Russia. What are some examples of this? Overall, are the political factors impeding progress or bolstering progress?
5. How has the knowledge from Grantville altered the relationship between the Russians and Poland? Which country seems to benefit the most from this?

6. How is Tim's idea for engaging the Polish troops like a "tightening noose" or "spiked collar"? Does it work?
7. Even though the Russians treat their peasants badly, the peasants decide to fight with the Russians against the Polish forces. Why would they do that? What does this say about the complex relationship between social classes in Russia at this time?
8. The czar has many reasons to want to fight Poland, but he continues to resist. Why? What does this say about the complex international relationships at this time? Do you consider Sweden or Poland to be the bigger threat?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. List some examples of corruption in the Russian government found in the book so far. Pick one or two of your best examples to explore in a presentation. Talk about the cost of political corruption to Russia as a whole or to a large group of people. Connect this to an example of corruption in our time. What can be done about corruption? An interactive organizer for this kind of presentation can be found at <http://www.readingquest.org/strat/problem.html>
2. Corruption is not the only problem in Russia – politics interferes with all aspects of life. What is an example of this? Is there a modern comparison? Create an editorial cartoon about political interference at <http://www.toondoo.com/>
3. Create your own alternate history: Choose a scientific discovery that we take for granted today and push that discovery back several decades (or more) in American history. What would change? How would that change our timeline?

Guide to Part 5 - chapters 63-69

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Gresham's Law
 - Dvoriane
- Focus questions or initiating activities:

- Research Murad IV of Turkey at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murad_IV and discuss his importance to the time period. How was his relationship with Russia?
- Circulating paper money has not been without problems in the story. How is paper money viewed today? Explore the debate about paper money at sources such as http://www.wired.com/culture/culturereviews/magazine/17-06/st_essay and discuss some of the problems and benefits of a paper economy.
- Poland or Sweden – who is the bigger threat to Russia. Research the King of Sweden, http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/gustavus_adolphus1.htm and determine why or how he can be a threat to Russia. You may also want to research the changes in the history with Sweden in this alternate timeline at <http://1632.org/>.

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter 63 – The czar lets some serfs buy out their extended time to go and search for gold. He has printed treasure maps to help them. Not everyone in Russia is happy with this development. Paper money in Russia is not trusted by all but continues to circulate. At the Dacha, class distinctions become less pronounced.
- Chapter 64 – In Grantville, Brandy struggles to understand the complexities of serfdom. In Russia, a serf named Yuri plans to run to escape his predicament because he cannot afford to buy out his debt.
- Chapter 65 – A winter storm strikes Russia, ruining a large portion of the crop. Those with new reapers are able to save their crops, making those crops more valuable. To compensate for this loss, the czar cuts off some of the grain supply to the Swedes. While the czar wants to prepare for war with Poland, many feel this is the wrong course.
- Chapter 66 – Russian technology continues to progress, including plans for a railroad. Boris enters the freeze drying business on the side. The paper money does not equal its silver equivalent.
- Chapter 67 – A priest, Father Nikon, murders the patriarch for hoarding the wisdom brought from the Ring of Fire. Fedor Ivanovich Sheremetev orders the removal of the czar and his family from Moscow. He tells others that he is looking after the czar's safety, but he also does this to remove the czar from the decision making of the time. In effect, the czar is now captive, but captive in comfortable quarters. Fedor spread rumors throughout Moscow about the czar's new measures, making it easy for many in power to believe the czar should be kept from the decision making process for a time.

- Chapter 68 – Boris sends his family out of Moscow for their own safety as the streets are burning and riots are taking place. Then, Boris returns to his job so that he does not seem to be taking sides in the political battles.
- Chapter 69 – Tim returns to Moscow and reports about his battle experiences to his powerful military uncle before leaving again, this time to Murom. Sheremetev is declared Director-General of Russia and is ruling.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. Why is Natasha not concerned about losing serfs? (ch. 63)
2. Why does Brandy want to send a letter to Natasha without going through Boris? (ch. 64)
3. Why do some feel Sweden is a larger threat than Poland? (ch. 65)
 - a. Sweden’s king has more troops
 - b. Sweden’s king is more ambitious
 - c. Sweden’s king has already shown great power
 - d. All of the above
4. Why does Boris want the czarina to leave Moscow? (ch. 65)
5. What are some of the advantages of a railroad? (ch. 66)
6. Why is the czar considered weak without his father? (ch. 67)
7. Why does Boris want to remain neutral in the political problems? (ch. 68)
8. Despite good family connections, Tim receives a post he believes is poor. Why? (ch. 69)
9. Why is Cass in charge of the Dacha?

Answers:

1. Natasha’s family has money to pay for people to work the land.
2. Brandy does not want Boris to read her letters because of the delicate political climate in Russia at the time.
3. D

4. Boris fears for her safety.
5. A railroad would connect parts of Russia and allow goods and people to travel more quickly.
6. The czar's father was more commanding and decisive. Many thought the czar's father was ruling through his son. Now that his father is gone, the czar appears weak and indecisive.
7. Boris fears for his life and his job. He wants both to be intact when the political conflicts are finished, no matter which side wins.
8. Tim continues to pay for making an order without permission.
9. The Director General believes that Cass will run things more strictly and bring his own up-timer knowledge to bear on the developments. He also believes Cass will stay loyal to him.

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. Bernie compares the middle class of the twentieth century to the service nobility of 1635. How so? Do you believe this is a valid comparison? How does it help us understand the service nobility? (ch. 63)
2. Why did Fedor spread rumors about the death of the patriarch and the repercussions of the new plans of the czar? How do the rumors help him gain command? (ch. 67)
3. When Natasha sees troops “guarding” the Dacha, she immediately becomes suspicious of their presence and believes there is an ulterior motive. Why? What has happened previously to justify those suspicions? (ch. 68)
4. How did the officials take over Russia so quickly? What does this say about the stability of Russia before this moment and the importance of the patriarch? (ch. 67-69)
5. How has the presence of the troops and Cass begun to change the Dacha? Predict in what future ways the Dacha will alter because of these new people. Do not just focus on product development.

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. The promise of gold can be appealing. Read about the California Gold Rush at <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/californiagoldrush.htm> and learn about the first-hand accounts from people who left everything for the promise of gold and a better life.

Apply this to the serfs in our story. You can create a similar diary for a serf looking for gold or report your reflections in an essay.

2. Sheremetev depends on rumor to create a sense of anxiety in Moscow. This anxiety allows him to step in and assume command and appear the hero. Research the role of rumor in politics today at <http://www.factcheck.org/2008/03/that-chain-e-mail-your-friend-sent-to-you-is-likely-bogus-seriously/> and find your own example of negative rumors harming a campaign or famous person's career.
3. Sheremetev also employs doublespeak, which is a technique of saying one thing while meaning another. For example, Natasha knows the troops sent to the Dacha for "protection" are really there to keep her there. Read this piece about doublespeak at <http://www.dt.org/html/Doublespeak.html> and find some examples of your own for doublespeak. How common is this in the world today? What is the author saying about politicians and others who use this approach?

Guide to Part 6 - chapters 70-83

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Operation Barbarossa
 - Oxenstierna
 - Shogun
 - Oprichniki
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Learn more about the history of the Oprichniki under Ivan the Terrible at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprichnik> . How did they function then? How could they be used in the current climate under the Director General?
 - Natasha enjoys more freedom than most women in her time period. Explore the options for women of nobility at http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/anna/ei_woman.html and discuss some of the futures awaiting her.
 - While the czar let serfs buy out their debt, many could not. What were the repercussions of running away? Learn more about this at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serfdom> and discuss whether or not running away

would be a good option for Anya or others now that Cass is in charge of the Dacha.

- The radio improves communication, but still requires time to send and decode messages. Learn about this process at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wireless_telegraphy and discuss the benefits and limitations of the medium.
- The new patriarch in Russia is Joasaphus. Research about him at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarch_Joasaphus_I and explain how the historical Joasaphus may have viewed Grantville up-timers.

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter 70 – Natasha believes she will be forced to marry Colonel Shuvalov to unite his family's power and connections with her family's wealth. Bernie objects to the idea and does not understand why she would have to go through with such a thing. Bernie believes himself to be more Russian than American, as he feels more loyalty to the people there since the Ring of Fire. Vladimir hears about the changes at the Dacha and discovers that his funding has been cut off.
- Chapter 71 – The Director-General arrives at the Dacha and places Cass in charge permanently. The Director-General tells the Dacha that the Turks will soon come and tour the facility.
- Chapter 72 – The Director General's act to cut Vladimir's funds and supply routes plunges Vladimir into debt. Vladimir and Boris believe that the Director General is making poor decisions about the country, especially in terms of the paper money.
- Chapter 73 – Anya voices concerns about the Dacha under Cass. Natasha agrees that the situation has worsened. Anya considers running away and offers to take Natasha, Bernie, and Filip with her.
- Chapter 74 – Cass storms into Natasha's room drunk and tries to rape her, but Anya shoots him. Father Kiril and Sofia arrange an escape for the group before Cass's death becomes common knowledge.
- Chapter 75 – Bernie, Natasha, and others escape in the car and drive toward Natasha's lands in Murom. Bernie believes the next course of action should be to rescue the czar.
- Chapter 76 – Natasha takes back her palace at Murom and imprisons Tim and Captain Ivan (Tim's cousin). Natasha discovers the czar is near and all plan to go and see him.

- Chapter 77 – The Director General visits the Dacha when he hears about what happened. After arresting Sofia, he orders the arrest of Natasha as well.
- Chapter 78 – The arrest order comes to Murom too late via radio, and Bernie, Natasha and others bring men to the hunting lodge where the czar remains captive. Once there, they discover that the Director General has created a secret police to guard the czar. After a gunfight, Natasha’s men are victorious. The czar, his family, and his up-timer nurse and her family join the others and leave the hunting lodge.
- Chapter 79 – Bernie, Natasha, the czar, and others return to Murom. The Sheremetev guards try to arrest Bernie in the name of the czar, but the czar’s presence confuses them and forces them to let him go. At this moment, Tim must decide where his loyalties lie, and he chooses to support the czar and all the nation over his family and clan. Realizing Murom could not be held for long, Natasha frees her serf and offers them a chance to follow them to the east to Ufa to build a new life.
- Chapter 80 – Murom is in flames, and Ivan of the Sheremetev clan must sort things out until he receives clear orders from Russia. The Director General does not know where Natasha and the others have gone but sends troops in that direction. Sheremetev wants the new patriarch to claim that the czar is under a spell cast by Natasha, and that, because of this, Natasha should be shot. At a stop on their journeys, the czar orders Sheremetev’s arrest.
- Chapter 81 – Sheremetev reads an order for his own arrest and is furious. He begins to discover who is loyal to him as the czar heads to Bor to confiscate the largest dirigible. Tim tries to predict how the forces at Bor will react and help the czar plan accordingly. At Bor, Ivan tries to encourage the captain to prepare for attack, but the captain does not believe an attack is likely.
- Chapter 82 – Tim (promoted to general by the czar) enacts his plan and leads an attack at Bor to obtain the dirigible. Ivan hesitates to act because he does not have time to consider all the options as he would in the war games. Instead, Ivan runs to Nick and the dirigible, leaving his captain to fight (and lose) against Tim’s forces. Upon seeing Tim, Ivan and Nick join Tim’s forces. All plan for Ufa.
- Chapter 83 – Troops head up the Volga River to stop the czar. Tim brings his army to face them while others head to Ufa. In the dirigible, Natasha looks to the east with hopes for real change and a better future, finally acknowledging her feelings for Bernie.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. Why did the Director General cut off Vladimir’s access to his money? (ch. 70)

2. Why does Bernie feel more allegiance to Russia than Grantville? (ch. 70)
 - a. He never liked Grantville
 - b. He loves Natasha
 - c. He has spent more time in Russia since the Ring of Fire and feels included there
 - d. He has spent more time in Russia and believes that the Russians will make him rich
3. Why is Vladimir worried that the Director General may kill Natasha? (ch. 72)
4. If Natasha agrees that Cass is dangerous, why does she not run away with Anya immediately? (ch. 73)
5. Why did the guards at Natasha's door not intervene when Cass tried to rape Natasha? (ch. 74)
 - a. They were asleep
 - b. They were drunk
 - c. They were not Natasha's own guards
 - d. They were paid to leave the door for a while
6. Why must Natasha leave after the attack when she did not want to before? (ch. 74)
7. Why do the escapees want to go east? (ch. 75)
8. Why does Tim have no respect for his cousin Ivan? (ch. 76)
9. Why does the Director-General have to leave the Dacha to send out a notice to arrest Natasha, Bernie and others? (ch. 77)
 - a. The radio operator is dead
 - b. The radio operator refuses to send an order to arrest his friends
 - c. Bernie stops him from entering the radio area
 - d. Bernie and the others broke the radio before leaving
10. Why is the czar hesitant to rule? (ch. 77)
11. Why does the czar order Sheremetev's arrest when he technically does not have the power to do so? (ch. 80)

12. Why is the dirigible important to Tim? To the czarina? (ch. 81)
13. Why does the captain at Bor believe that the czar and Bernie are not likely to attack? (ch. 81)
14. What was the czar's role in the skirmish at Bor? (ch. 82)
15. Why do the forces at Bor scatter after some initial fighting? (ch. 83)

Answers:

1. He wanted Vladimir to understand that he was powerful and in charge.
2. C
3. He fears that Natasha and the Dacha may be too much of a threat. She is also friendly with the czarina.
4. Natasha believes that running away would create hardship on those left behind.
5. C
6. Natasha knows that Anya's life is in danger after Anya shot Cass and the guards. Natasha also knows that her life may be in danger with the death of the up-timer.
7. East is less populated and has a harsher climate. Plus, no one would expect them to go east.
8. Ivan is disrespectful and not very intelligent. Ivan also rarely thinks for himself.
9. D
10. The czar understands the danger involved in standing up to the Director-General, and he is not sure he wants to take that risk, especially for the sake of his family.
11. The czar hopes to create a chaotic atmosphere. In that setting, the czar hopes to accomplish his goal at Bor and head east without too much interference.
12. Tim understands first-hand the military benefits of the dirigible. The czarina understands the political power of taking back the dirigible named after her.
13. The czar believes that both men are not prone to violence, which is a belief Tim wants to exploit.
14. The czar stood on a boat and waved. Later, he got out and shook hands. This served as a distraction for the forces to enter and take the dirigible.

15. The forces were not well organized, and many were not highly motivated to fight.

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. Why does Natasha believe she must marry Shuvalov? As a wealthy woman and princess in her own right, why does she feel that she does not have a say in this decision? What are the consequences if she refuses? (ch. 70)
2. Why does Bernie want to rescue the czar? (ch. 75) Bernie understands that this idea would place them in more danger, but is he right to believe that the czar's presence would help them in the end?
3. What is the function of the secret police (ch. 78)? How does the creation of such a force portray the Director General in a negative light? What other examples of such secret forces can you think of in history?
4. Serfs are freed in Chapter 79 under some protest. What were the protests, and do you think any of them are valid? Many of the concerns are based on fears. What are the nobles afraid of if the serfs were free? How does fear dictate other choices?
5. While Natasha looks to the east in hope for a better life, the czarina has concerns. What are her concerns (ch. 83)? Based on what you have read so far, are her concerns valid?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. The Director-General compares himself to a shogun. Read about the shogun in Japan at <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/541431/shogunate> and determine if this is an accurate comparison given the Director-General's ambitions and actions. Find an interactive Venn diagram at <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/venn/> to help you think through the various elements involved in comparing both roles.
2. Natasha compares her earlier life and the time in the Dacha under Cass to being in a cage (ch. 73). Explore the expectations for women during this time period at <http://www.enotes.com/feminism-criticism/women-16th-17th-18th-centuries> and discuss how the novel approaches the issue of women's freedoms. Is the cage comparison appropriate?
3. When the Director General reports that the czar is under a spell, he is trying to use propaganda to turn the people away from the czar. Research some common propaganda techniques at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~amcdonal/Propaganda%20Techniques.html> and look for current examples of propaganda in politics today. Discuss the role propaganda plays in contemporary politics.

4. In an alternate history, the ending does not have to correspond to actual history because changes inside the story affect events. This novel ends with much left unresolved. Write your own next chapter of the novel, and further the adventures in Russia or Grantville. After writing, think about what caused you to see the characters in that way. There are some tips for this at <http://www.fuelyourwriting.com/10-tips-for-writing-fanfiction/> .